Introduction:
A. Immaturity is at the root of many church problems.
   1. Newborn babes in Christ is not the problem – need time to grow.
   2. General immaturity -- not babes in Christ, just plain babies.
   3. Spiritually immature after time for development (cf. Heb. 5:12)
B. Spiritual maturity, as taught in N.T., can be recognized by certain signs.

Discussion:
I. The Ability To Be Reasonable And Consistent. (Matt. 11:16-19)
   A. Immature children in the market place.
      1. Played happy game - others did not like it.
      2. Played sad game - others did not like it.
   B. Immature generation criticized both John and Jesus -- they did opposite.
II. The Ability To Fully Appreciate The Wisdom Of God (1 Cor. 2:6)
   A. Mature Christians are more impressed by simple gospel message.
      1. Understand and appreciate its power. (1:18)
      2. Understand and appreciate its sufficiency. (2:2)
      3. Understand and appreciate its presentation. (2:4,5)
      4. Understand and appreciate its source. (2:7-13)
   B. Immature Christians are more impressed by other things.
      1. The sensationalism and novelty of signs. (1:22)
      2. The sophistry and oratory of human wisdom. (1:22; 2:1-4)
      3. The advantages of social, economic, and/or physical power. (1:23-29)
III. The Ability To Evaluate Man's Role In God's Plan (1 Cor. 3:1-5)
   A. Immature Christians tend to have distorted view of gospel servants.
      1. Often think of them as competitors. (3:3).
         a. Generates envy, strife and division between devotees to each man.
         b. Causes arrogance on behalf of "favorites". (4:6)
      2. Often think must either idolize them or completely despise them.
   B. Mature Christians are able to view God's servants in proper light.
      1. They can love and honor them as God's servants without being "of" them.
      2. They can receive and appreciate them gifts from God. (3:5-10, 21-23; 4:1)
IV. The Ability To Understand What Edifies The Church. (1 Cor. 14:20)
   A. Immature Corinthians seemed to be overly fascinated with tongue speaking.
      1. Did not understand purpose of tongues. (14:22)
      2. Did not understand how useless they were for edification. (14:19)
      3. All such tend to go more for novel and show rather than substance.
   B. Mature Christians go for edification value rather than sensational value.
      1. If tongues, then an interpreter so people can understand and learn.
      2. They put emphasis on understandability more than excitability.
V. The Ability To Digest And Use Strong Spiritual Food (Heb. 5:12-14)
   A. Immature Christians desire only the most elementary teaching.
      1. Do not like to have to think (discern) - wants things overly simplified.
      2. Will always remain unskilled in word of righteousness.
   B. Mature Christians appreciate teaching that challenges his thinking beyond first principles.
      1. So they can scripturally improve their study skills.
      2. So they can scripturally improve their discerning skills.
      3. So they can scripturally improve their teaching skills.

Conclusion:
A. How mature are you? More than a year ago?
B. What are you doing to improve your maturity?